

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)
ENVIRONMENTAL RANKING CRITERIA
FY 2002-2007

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR RANKING INTENTIONS

1. NO POINTS WILL BE AWARDED, IF CATEGORY IS NOT APPLICABLE.
2. A RANKING PACKET WILL BE COMPLETED FOR EACH INTENTION.
3. INTENTIONS WILL BE ON A TRACT BASIS, IF OFFERED ACRES ARE NOT CONTIGUOUS.

- (1) _____ PERMANENT EASEMENT 5 PTS.
- _____ 30-YEAR EASEMENT 2 PTS.
- _____ 10-YEAR RESTORATION AGREEMENT 1 PT.
- (2) POTENTIAL TO RETAIN LONG-TERM WETLAND FUNCTIONS/VALUES:
- _____ PERMANENT EASEMENT; PLANNED HYDROLOGY RESTORATION 5 PTS.
- _____ PERMANENT EASEMENT; NO HYDROLOGY RESTORATION 4 PTS.
- _____ 30-YEAR EASEMENT; PLANNED HYDROLOGY RESTORATION 3 PTS.
- _____ 30-YEAR EASEMENT; NO HYDROLOGY RESTORATION 2 PTS.
- _____ 10-YEAR WETLAND RESTORATION AGREEMENT 1 PT.
- (3) SIGNIFICANT HABITAT VALUES - MIGRATORY BIRDS, WILDLIFE, DECLINING SPECIES (CHOOSE HIGHEST APPLICABLE CATEGORY):
- _____ FEDERAL- OR STATE-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES OCCUPIES, AND RESTORATION WILL ENHANCE PROTECTION 10 PTS.
- (ELIGIBLE SITES ARE LISTED IN APPENDIX)
- _____ EASEMENT IS IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TARGETED AREAS: 6 PTS.
- a. Mississippi Alluvial Valley
- b. Obion River Watershed
- c. Forked Deer River Watershed
- d. Hatchie River Watershed
- e. Wolf River Watershed
- _____ SITE CONTRIBUTES TO DECLINING SPECIES HABITAT; MEETS AT LEAST ONE ITEM BELOW: 3 PTS.
- a. Reforestation exceeds 50 acres in Middle or East Tennessee.
- b. Reforestation exceeds 200 acres in West Tennessee.
- c. Shallow depressions restored or created; structural treatment required (e.g., plugs, dikes, excavation, etc.).

(4) RESTORATION WITHIN DESIGNATED SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS:

<u>WEST TENNESSEE</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>MIDDLE TENNESSEE</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
Obion/Forked Deer (Including North, Middle, South Forks Primary Floodplains)	5 PTS.	Elk/Duck River Watersheds	5 PTS.
Hatchie River Watershed	4 PTS.	Barrens Area: Coffee/ Adjacent Counties	4 PTS.
Mississippi River Delta	3 PTS.	Cherry/Squeeze Bottoms; Humphreys Co.	3 PTS.
Wolf River Floodplain	2 PTS.	All Other Areas	0 PTS.
All Other Areas	0 PTS.		

<u>EAST TENNESSEE</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
Lick Creek – Greene, Washington Counties Clinch/Powell/Little Chucky/Holston Watersheds	5 PTS.
Shady Valley	4 PTS.
Lower Sequatchie Valley – Marion County	3 PTS.
Elk Fork Creek – Campbell Co. Above Jellico	2 PTS.
All Other Areas	0 PTS.

(5) PERCENT OF TOTAL EASEMENT AREA IN PC, FW, FWP, WX, OR DRAINED FORESTED WETLAND:

<u>PERCENT RESTORABLE WETLAND IN OFFER</u>	<u>POINTS EARNED</u>
90 – 100%	5 PTS.
80 – 89%	4 PTS.
70 – 79%	3 PTS.
60 – 69%	2 PTS.
<60%	1 PT.

(6) PERCENTAGE OF ACRES IN EASEMENT TO BE INFLUENCED BY HYDROLOGY TREATMENTS (REFER TO HYDROLOGY WORKSHEET). HYDROLOGY TREATMENTS CONSIST OF PLANNED ALTERATIONS TO THE SITE SUCH AS DITCH PLUGS, EXCAVATION OF DEPRESSIONS, TILE BREAKS, ETC. WATERFOWL IMPOUNDMENTS INSTALLED PRIOR TO WRP APPLICATION ARE CONSIDERED TREATMENTS, IF THE FEATURES WILL BE MAINTAINED AS PART OF EASEMENT:

<u>PERCENT EASEMENT WITH PLANNED “HYDROLOGY RESTORATION TREATMENT”</u>	<u>POINTS EARNED</u>
30% or Greater	15 PTS.
20 – 29%	10 PTS.
10 – 19%	7 PTS.
1 – 9%	3 PTS.
<1%	1 PT.

(7) TOTAL EASEMENT ACRES OFFERED BY REGION OF THE STATE.

NOTE: ROUND OFFERS TO THE NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER:

<u>WEST TENNESSEE</u>		<u>EAST TENNESSEE</u>		<u>MIDDLE TENNESSEE</u>	
<u>ACRES</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
250+	5 PTS.	10+	5 PTS.	50+	5 PTS.
200 – 249	4 PTS.	7 - 9	4 PTS.	25 – 49	4 PTS.
150 – 199	3 PTS.	4 – 6	3 PTS.	10 – 24	3 PTS.
100 – 149	2 PTS.	1 – 3	2 PTS.	5 – 9	2 PTS.
50 – 99	1 PT.	<1	1 PT.	1 – 4	1 PT.

(8) DIVERSITY OF WETLAND TYPES BY COWARDIN CLASSIFICATION EXPECTED ON SITE AFTER RESTORATION:

CHECK ALL APPROPRIATE (NOTE: THIS CATEGORY MAY BE DETERMINED BY A REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PLANNED HYDROLOGIC TREATMENTS AND VEGETATION ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE SITE):

- _____ FORESTED, TEMPORARILY FLOODED (LIMITED TO FROM A FEW DAYS TO A FEW WEEKS AT ANY TIME; PFO1A).
- _____ FORESTED, SEASONALLY FLOODED (FLOODING TYPICALLY FOR AT LEAST 2 MONTHS UP TO 6 MONTHS SOMETIME DURING YEAR; PFO1C).
- _____ FORESTED, SEMIPERMANENTLY TO PERMANENTLY FLOODED OR PONDED (FLOODING OR PONDING 6 MONTHS OR MORE IN A TYPICAL YEAR; WOULD INCLUDE BEAVER PONDS, IMPOUNDMENTS THAT CANNOT BE TOTALLY DRAINED, AND CLOSED OUTLET DEPRESSIONAL OR PONDED AREAS; PFO1F).
- _____ FORESTED, SATURATED CONDITION ONLY; PFO1B).
- _____ EMERGENT, HERBACEOUS, TEMPORARILY FLOODED; PEM1A).
- _____ EMERGENT, HERBACEOUS, SEASONALLY FLOODED; PEM1C).
- _____ EMERGENT, HERBACEOUS, SEMIPERMANENTLY OR PERMANENTLY FLOODED OR PONDED; PEM1F).
- _____ EMERGENT, SATURATED ONLY (PEM1B).
- _____ DEEPWATER HABITAT (PERMANENT OPEN WATER DEEP ENOUGH TO NOT READILY SUPPORT ABOVEWATER VEGETATION).

<u>NO. OF WETLAND TYPES</u>	<u>POINTS EARNED</u>
6 OR MORE	10 PTS.
5	7 PTS.
4	4 PTS.
<4	1 PT.

- (9) THE NUMBER, VARIETY, AND QUALITY OF RESTORATION TREATMENTS PLANNED FOR THE SITE:

TREATMENT – HIGH QUALITY CATEGORY

- A. WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE, SET TO ENSURE MINIMUM 20% UNDRAINED CONDITION OF IMPOUNDED AREA.
- B. EXCAVATION OF SHALLOW DEPRESSIONS.
- C. TILE BREAK.
- D. DITCH PLUG.
- E. TREE PLANTING – OAKS PLANTED ON OAK SITE, OR NON-OAK PLANTED ON NON-OAK SITE.

TREATMENT – MEDIUM QUALITY CATEGORY

- A. LEVEE CONSTRUCTION – SERPENTINE OR CONTOUR
 - HEIGHT <6 FEET.
 - >80 PERCENT OF LEVEED AREA <18-INCH WATER DEPTH.
- B. WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE WITH COMPLETE DRAINING CAPABILITIES.
- C. NATURAL REGENERATION ON A NON-OAK SITE.
- D. LEVEE BREECH ON UNCHANNELIZED SYSTEM.

TREATMENT – LOW QUALITY CATEGORY

- A. LEVEE CONSTRUCTION – STRAIGHT LEVEES.
 - HEIGHT <6 FEET.
 - >80 PERCENT OF LEVEED AREA <18-INCH WATER DEPTH.
- B. NATURAL REGENERATION ON AN OAK SITE.
- C. LEVEE BREECH ON A CHANNELIZED STREAM SYSTEM.
- D. NESTING ISLANDS.

PLANNED TREATMENTS

POINTS EARNED

_____ COMBINATION OF 5 OR MORE DIFFERENT TREATMENTS, AT LEAST 3 FROM HIGH CATEGORY	20 PTS.
_____ COMBINATION OF 4 DIFFERENT TREATMENTS, AT LEAST 2 FROM HIGH QUALITY CATEGORY	15 PTS.
_____ COMBINATION OF 3 DIFFERENT TREATMENTS	7 PTS.
_____ LESS THAN 3 DIFFERENT TREATMENTS PLANNED	0 PTS.

(10) THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF RESTORATION PER ACRE (TOTAL EASEMENT AREA):

<u>COST</u>	<u>POINTS EARNED</u>
ESTIMATED TO BE LESS THAN COST LIST ESTIMATES DUE TO LANDOWNER OR PARTNER INPUTS (BY FUND OR IN-KIND) OVER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	5 PTS.
ESTIMATED TO BE EQUAL OR MORE THAN COST LIST ESTIMATES	0 PTS.

(11) EASEMENT COST PER ACRE:

<u>COST</u>	<u>POINTS EARNED</u>
LANDOWNER WILL ACCEPT <70% OF APPRAISED VALUE	10 PTS.
LANDOWNER WILL ACCEPT 70-90% OF APPRAISED VALUE	5 PTS.
LANDOWNER WILL ACCEPT >90% OF APPRAISED VALUE	0 PTS.

(12) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS:

<u>LEVEL OF RISK</u>	<u>POINTS EARNED</u>
POTENTIAL LEVEL OF RISK FOR STRUCTURE FAILURE CONSIDERED NORMAL BASED ON SITE CONDITIONS.	5 PTS.
POTENTIAL LEVEL OF RISK FOR STRUCTURE FAILURE CONSIDERED HIGH, BASED ON SITE LOCATION (MISSISSIPPI RIVER FLOODPLAIN, HIGH GRADIENT STREAM BOTTOMS, HIGHLY RESTRICTED FLOODPLAINS, OFFER WITH EXISTING BEAVER PONDS)	0 PTS.

RANKING SUMMARY SHEET

<u>FACTOR</u>	<u>MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS</u>	<u>POINTS EARNED</u>
1	5	_____
2	5	_____
3	10	_____
4	5	_____
5	5	_____
6	15	_____
7	5	_____
8	10	_____
9	20	_____
10	5	_____
11	10	_____
12	5	_____
TOTAL POINTS FOR SITE		_____
TOTAL ESTIMATED USDA COST FOR RESTORATION:		
	PERMANENT EASEMENT - 100%	_____
	30-YEAR EASEMENT - 75%	_____
	10-YEAR CONTRACT - 75%	_____
ESTIMATED COST OF EASEMENT TO USDA:		
	PERMANENT (100% OF APPRAISAL)	_____
	30-YEAR (75% OF APPRAISAL)	_____
	(ESTIMATED APPRAISED VALUE TO BE DETERMINED BY DC BASED ON LOCAL LAND VALUES FOR CROPLAND, WOODLAND, AND WATER AREAS.)	
ESTIMATED LEGAL FEES:		
	\$7,500 PLUS \$5/ACRE	_____
TOTAL USDA COST FOR ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION:		
TOTAL EASEMENT ACRES		
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST PER ACRE		